

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09119 240652 Z

20

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 RSC-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 RSR-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03 /065 W

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R 240353 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2083

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9119

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, VS

SUBJECT: DR. BINH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TAXATION

FOR COOPER FROM WHITEHOUSE

1. DR. BINH IS IN U. S. ON TRIP SCHEDULED TO LAST ABOUT ONE MONTH ENDING JUNE 10. SINCE HIS DEPARTURE, HE HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK IN NEWSPAPERS FOR ALLEGED TAX EVASION. CHARGES STEM FROM A MAN NAMED LE TAI TRIEN LEGAL ADVISOR TO VICE PRESIDENT. TRIEN ACCUSES BINH OF MAKING FALSE DECLARATION OF VALUE OF HOUSE HE RECENTLY SOLD.

2. OUR SOURCES IN MINFIN SAY TRIEN' S ACCUSATION IS COUNTER-MOVE TO ACTION BROUGHT BY BINH AGAINST MEMBER OF TRIEN' S FAMILY FOR TAX EVASION. MINECON AND MINFIN NOW SEEKING TO CONTRACT BINH IN U. S. TO WARN HIM AND PROBABLY CALL HIM BACK SO HE CAN DEFEND HIMSELF. BINH IS SAID TO BE REACHABLE THROUGH JOSEPH HARMON, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

3. PLEASE SEE IF YOU CAN PASS MESSAGE TO BINH THAT HE SHOULD CONTACT VIC MINECON CUONG OR VICE MINFIN DUNG ASAP.

4. COMMENT: AS YOU ARE AWARE, BINH HAS DONE OUTSTANDING JOB AS TAX DIRECTOR. WE WILL STAY CLOSE TO SITUATION AND ENDEAVOR TO FRUSTRATE WHAT WE FEAR MAY BE SERIOUS EFFORT TO UNSEAT HIM.

WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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